

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments eliminate the multiple dependent claim format so as to avoid the concomitant surcharge therefor. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and an examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees due to our deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Gruskin", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 14, 2004